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New Bernal Journal

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SERVING THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1964

¡Sección Especial! NBJ en Español: Página 9

BHNC Goes National

Rudy Corpuz and youth from United Playaz, the BHNC Gang Prevention program, traveled to WDC over the MLK weekend to present to local youth regarding gang, prison, and choices. Rudy and members of the United Playaz also traveled to Columbia, South Carolina, to participate with over 140 community-based organizations in the Center for Community Change's National Campaign for Jobs and Income Support. Rudy and BHNC youth and were able to meet with Democratic presidential candidates Dennis Kucinich and Reverend Al Sharpton, to encourage the candidates to promote a progressive agenda. The Young Women's Development Center was the other youth group representing San Francisco.

Rudy Corpuz, the BHNC's United Playaz program director, in Washington D.C. as part of the "I Have a Dream Foundation STEP 73 program's outreach efforts to youth in the District of Columbia.

Decision 2004 - Vote on March 2nd

BHNC Board Deliberates, Votes Yes on H, No on J, for Kids in Holly Park and Against 67 Route Change

By Ron Morgan

At their first meeting of 2004, the Board of Directors of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center voted on January 29th to oppose proposed local plans to turn the ball field atop Holly Park into a leash-free dog-run (see related story on page 7) and change the route of the 67 MUNI bus line (see related Precita Valley Neighbors story, page 6). The BHNC Board also voted to support a March ballot proposition creating a fund of \$60 million for San Francisco public schools and to oppose a proposition proposing to expedite development of "workforce housing" downtown and on the waterfront adjacent to Potrero Hill.

Great Schools for a Great City

Proposition H, the Great Schools for a Great City charter amendment, is an amendment to the City charter that will require the City to fund universal preschool for all four year-old residents; restore the arts, music,

athletics and physical education programs; provide for nurses, social workers and librarians in our schools; and provide increases to teachers salaries. These funds will be phased in over five years, beginning in 2005. By creating this Public Education Fund, supporters of Proposition H hope to buffer the City's schools from the vicissitudes of state and federal funding.

Proposition H was written and sponsored by Supervisor Tom Ammiano, and was voted onto the ballot by the Board of Supervisors by a vote of 9 - 2. Mayor Newsom, Assemblyman Mark Leno, and all the members of the Board of Education are on record in support of this measure.

According to the Proposition H web site (www.yesonh.com) the Great Schools for a Great City charter amendment will, at full phase-in:

- Allocate \$700 per pupil to the schools - half the funds needed to bring San Francisco schools up to the average

- Guarantee \$20 million annually for arts, music, sports and physical education and librarians

- \$20 million annually to the San Francisco First Five Commission for universal preschool for ALL four-year old City residents

- \$20 million annually to sup-

port the classrooms and teachers. Opponents to the proposed charter amendment, who include Supervisor Matt Gonzalez, have pointed out that dedicating monies from the General Fund will siphon funding from other areas, such as health care.

"Workforce" Housing

Proposition J, the "Workforce" Housing Initiative, is intended as a solution to the lack of opportunities for the middle-class to purchase homes in San Francisco. Prop J would create two "workforce housing communities", one downtown and one on the waterfront east of Potrero Hill, in which a percentage of units would be set aside for sale to households making not more than 120 % of the median income. In exchange for developing these lower than market rate units, developers would receive height and density bonuses and are guaranteed expedited permit processes and blanket environmental review for the entire "workforce" community area. The initiative was placed on the ballot through the collection of 17,000 signatures of SF registered voters, after a resolution sponsored by then-Supervisor Gavin Newsom failed to garner a

majority of the Board of Supervisors. There are a lot of diverse groups and individuals opposing Proposition J, including the Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhood Associations, the Council of Community Housing Organizations, and Supervisors Ammiano, Gonzalez, Maxwell, Daly, Peskin, McGoldrick, and Hall.

Critics of Proposition J point out that Prop J defines "workforce" as those making \$77,000 a year for an individual, \$110,000 a year for a family of four, placing these units beyond the reach of 90% of those currently working in the San Francisco. They note that there are no incentives for creating much needed family-sized units for working families.

Opponents also criticize Prop J's expedited permit process, in which "workforce" developments would jump to the head of the queue at the Planning Department, creating delays in other affordable housing developments.

Residents in neighborhoods affected by Prop J have complained that they were not consulted in the creation of Prop J, and that it would throw out years of work by the City's Better Neighborhoods program to carefully rezone and strengthen the historic eastern neighborhoods of the City.

(Continued on Page 17)

The New Bernal Journal

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The New Bernal Journal is a neighborhood newspaper sponsored by the
**Bernal Heights Neighborhood
Center.**

It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with their community's news, ideas, issues and events which support the center mission:

To preserve and enhance the ethnic, cultural and economic diversity and well-being of the Bernal Heights community. We work to build a strong community for all, with a focus on the needs of low and moderate-income people. We do this by providing services to support and increase opportunities for seniors, youth and others most at-risk; by preserving and expanding access to affordable housing; and by building the neighborhood's power and capacity to achieve these goals. We commit to being a provider of essential services, a builder of community, and a force for organizing neighborhood change.

The New Bernal Journal is distributed door-to-door free to the community of Bernal Heights.

Articles express the views of the contributors and are not necessarily those of The New Bernal Journal or the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

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Submissions for the April/May issue of the NBJ are due by 3/15/03. Please make all computer disk submissions in PC format, or email them to: nbj@bhnc.org



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Members:

We're off to a great start this year with lots of activities and outings taking place as we gear up for another exciting and productive year. Last year we surpassed our membership goals of 1000 members by renewing and recruiting over 1100 members and raising over \$57,628. This year we've increased our goals to 1300 members and \$65,541 in individual donor support. I think we've earned your support. We are counting on you to help realize our goals and you can count on us to maintain the Bernal safety net and fight for those most in need.

As you read this issue of the NBJ, you can see our Board and staff taking leadership positions, sharing our experience and technical expertise with other communities, nationally and locally, and really encouraging our community residents to get involved and support our young people and families. For instance, on the front page you can see Rudy Corpuz, the BHNC's United Playaz program director, in Washington D.C. As part of the "I Have a Dream Foundation STEP 73 program's outreach efforts to youth in the District of Columbia.

Our Board of Directors at their last meeting voted to support Proposition H, and to oppose Proposition J on the March 2nd ballot. Proposition H supports our local public schools and young children. Proposition J supports middle income-families over the poor families the BHNC has always prioritized and reduces community review which is a tradition in Bernal. The Board hopes their actions encourage Bernal residents to get involved in the March 2nd ballot campaigns. They also voted to maintain the Holly Park playing field, and voted to maintain the current 67 Muni bus route on the north side of the hill.

You'll also find photos of our holiday activities both in Bernal and the Excelsior as well as photos of a ski trip that I had the opportunity to chaperone the weekend of January 23-25. Four staff took twelve youths ages 10-14 years old on a leadership retreat. Eleven of the twelve had never been to the snow or skied. The participants came from Bernal, the Excelsior, Visitacion Valley, the Bayview/Hunters Point, and two who reside outside the City but attend our local Excelsior schools. The students are enrolled in Paul Revere Elementary, Luther Burbank and James Denman Middle Schools, and Balboa High School. It was great to watch the youth broaden their horizons, gain confidence from trying something new, and developing respect for each other's differences. Thanks to the California Department of Justice for sponsoring the trip.

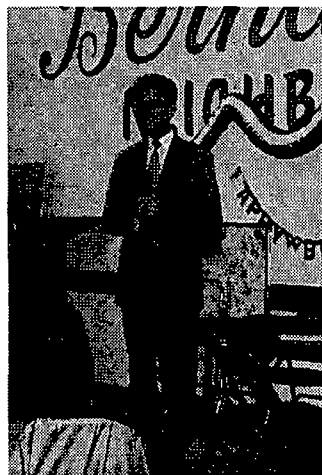
In closing, I'm supporting keeping free access to health services for poor families and individuals by keeping San Francisco General Hospital in the Mission District. Please see the General Hospital story on page X to get involved. The BHNC is hosting a town hall meeting with District 13 Assemblyman Mark Leno on Thursday, February 12th, from 7-8:30 pm. Come and discuss district issues with Mark and voice your concern and priorities around our state budget. Our children, seniors, and families are counting on it.

Enjoy the paper and please feel free to contact me at (415) 206-2140 ext. 121

Sincerely,

Mauricio E. Vela
BHNC Executive Director

Town Hall Meeting with Assemblyman Mark Leno



Thursday, February 12, 2004
7 - 8:30 pm
Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
515 Cortland Avenue

Come hear about Assemblyman Leno's first year in office, successes and challenges

Come learn about and voice your priorities for our 2004-2005 State budget

Come hear Assemblyman Leno's March 2nd recommendations

For more information, call 206-2140

Like what you see in the NBJ? Want to help your neighbors see it too?

Become a Volunteer Distributer!

The New Bernal Journal is delivered to the doors of almost every home in Bernal for free. We rely on our generous volunteers to make sure that it reaches the houses of our neighbors, particularly our seniors who may not make it down to the stores where the NBJ is also available. Please help make a difference and volunteer to distribute around your area today. Even one block helps tremendously!

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Bernal Holiday Toy Giveaway at Bank of America: Big Hit with Parents and Kids

SANTA COMES TO 29TH & MISSION

Santa Claus came to Mission Street in Bernal Heights last December 16th, at the BHNC's Annual Holiday Toy Giveaway. Over four hundred children received gifts, got their photo take with Santa, made craft items, and enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate. At right, families line up while Mauricio plays traffic cop in his Santa hat.



Santa in Shades: a little girl smiles bashfully (top) after letting Santa know her holiday wishes.



This year's Toy Giveaway was part of the BHNC's continuing efforts to revitalize Bernal's Mission corridor. To get involved, see the ad on Page X

(Right) Christmas came early of this Bernal youngster.

Photo credits: Cristy Johnston & Ron Morgan

I want to help Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center continue to serve my community!

- ☐ \$15-49 Regular Membership
- ☐ \$250 Neighborhood Center Advocate
- ☐ \$50-99 Supporting Membership
- ☐ \$500 Neighborhood Center Sustainer
- ☐ \$100-249 Neighborhood Center Friend
- ☐ \$1000 Neighborhood Center Sponsor
- ☐ \$1.00 Youth Membership (under 18)
- ☐ \$5.00 Seniors/Low-income Membership
- ☐ \$_____ Other

I am paying by: ☐ check ☐ credit card
Visa MC # _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone-day _____ Telephone-evening _____

E-mail _____

☐ My employer has a matching gift program. A corporate matching form is enclosed.

Name of employer _____

- ☐ I am interested in learning about volunteer opportunities.
- ☐ I am interested in learning about Planned Giving opportunities.
- ☐ I have remembered the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center in my will.

Other Ways You Can Help!

- Make a United Way Donor Choice gift. Just fill in BHNC's code #928683 on the United Way pledge form.
- For federal workers, the Combined Federal Campaign is the program through which you designate your United Way gift.
- Multiply your gift with a matching contribution from your employer.
- Donate used items to our thrift store, Gifts on the Hill, 513 Cortland Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110
- Donate resale items to Community Thrift Store, Valencia between 17th and 18th Streets, and designate BHNC (acct# 243) as the beneficiary.
- When you shop at Cole Hardware, Mission and 29th Street, tell them you want BHNC (acct# 515) to get 10% from your purchase.
- Consider including the BHNC in your estate planning. Call (415) 206-2140, ex. 161 to discuss how.

Cortland Avenue Happenings

Bernal Heights Branch Library News

Welcome to Marianne Robatto, Sootyin Kung and Teo Velaquez. They will be working with us while their library, Excelsior Branch, is closed for renovation. Thanks to Mimi Mueller for compiling the results of our survey: we were happy to find that most of our patrons are happy with their library.

Children's Programs:

The next Gabriel Sharing Fund program will celebrate children's books with Bernal's very own Ashley Wolff and Jane Wattenberg. Enjoy their stories and drawings, have your books signed and enjoy refreshments on Saturday, February 21st at 2:00 p.m. Tina Banchemo will "Dance A Story" for preschoolers on Thursday, March 4th at 11:00 a.m. and there will be crafts with Sophie on Wednesday, February 11th and March 10th at 4 p.m.

Other Programs:

Origami Club will return on Saturdays, February 7th and March 6th at 2:00 p.m. Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 26th to discuss A GESTURE LIFE by Chang-rae Lee and on March 25th to discuss THE OLD GRINGO by Carlos Fuentes. The Spanish conversation group meets on Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. We're planning a Irish American program for all ages in March too: check with us for details.

Staff Recommends:

Carol: Kathryn Lasky's ELIZABETH I, RED ROSE OF THE HOUSE OF TUDOR and ELIZABETH (the movie). **Hannah:** Linda Howard's CRY NO MORE and Sandra Brown's HELLO, DARKNESS. **Lisa:** Diane Middlebrook's HER HUSBAND; Twyla Tharp's CREATIVE HABIT; and Haven Kimmel's THE SOLACE OF LEAVING EARLY. **Marianne:** Maeve Binchy's SCARLET FEATHER and Jeanne Ray's JULIE AND ROMEO. **Skye:**

Dan Brown's THE DA VINCI CODE; Anita Diamant's THE RED TENT; and Jhumpa Lahiri's THE NAMESAKE.

Sylvie: Saira Shah's THE STORY-TELLER'S DAUGHTER and Alberto Fuguet's THE MOVIES OF MY LIFE.

All programs at the library are free and sponsored by the Friends and Foundation. The library is located at 500 Cortland Avenue. Call 355-2810 for more information.

Cortland Merchants Beautify the 'Hood

A letter from Cortland Merchants Association Co-Presidents David Ayooob and Cathy Guntli

Dear Neighbors and Friends, Happy New Year to all our neighbors in the wonderful community of Bernal Heights. We would like to keep you informed of our progress of the past year. We have been working on a number of beautification projects, such as planting more trees along Cortland Avenue, "bircking" the tree wells; pruning and lighting the trees, and cleaning the sidewalks along the "commercial strip".

The tree well bricking is completed for this year, including the new trees that have been recently planted. We now have twenty-one new tree sites on the Avenue! Our plan is to light up Cortland Avenue by stringing lights on the trees along the commercial strip from Bocana to Folsom Street. The west side of the 500 block of Cortland, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center block, has a lighting preview for our neighbors to see what's in store. The remaining trees along the street will be lit after their scheduled pruning by the DPW this spring.

With the help of a grant from the Mayor's Neighborhood Beautification Fund, we are planning on adding num-



Twinkle, twinkle -- Special Holiday tree lights, pictured above on the 500 block of Cortland Avenue, will soon brighten Cortland from Bocana to Folsom, thanks to a San Francisco Neighborhood Beautification grant awarded to the Cortland Merchants Association.

merous park benches on the street in the near future. The benches will be provided by the CMA through the City grant and will be maintained by the individual merchants. In addition, we will be increasing the number of trash receptacles and providing "doggie doo-doo bag" holders. You may have also noticed that we have just completed steam cleaning the sidewalks on Cortland Avenue, which has given the street a fresh, clean look.

Safety on Cortland has always been a big issue. We addressed this problem in several ways. With your support from a petition signed at the Fiesta on the Hill last fall, we were able to have large pedestrian stripes painted on the crosswalks at Bocana and Folsom Streets to heighten visibility of the crosswalks. We have bricked the tree wells along the entire avenue to make walking safer and to give the street a tidier appearance. We hope the tree lights along Cortland Avenue will significantly improve the illumination on the sidewalks, making walking at night safer. The Cortland Merchants Association is going strong. We are dedicated to



Sprucing up Cortland -- A worker pressure-washes Cortland as part of the Cortland Merchants Association's Neighborhood Beautification Project.

keeping our community safe, clean, and beautiful. Thank you all for your support. We'll keep you informed of our progress.

February: 20% Off All Toys
March: 20% Off All Fish Supplies

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carolbee3@aol.com

Excelsior Happenings

by Cristy Johnston

The Excelsior was a little brighter this year as neighborhood residents and volunteers decorated Mission Street for the holidays. Parking meters were candy striped with red velvet ribbon donated by neighborhood residents and merchants, and the Cortland Merchants Association generously donated 15 Christmas wreaths to the Excelsior, which were hung along Mission Street between Excelsior Street and Ocean Avenue. Residents and passers by are wondering what is happening on Mission Street and who is behind the small changes in the neighborhood. The answer is of course, the ENCoRe project!

ENCoRe

ENCoRe, Excelsior Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization, is a joint project of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and the Excelsior Action Group, a neighborhood group comprised of residents, merchants, and representatives of other Excelsior non-profits and advocacy groups formed to

spearhead the revitalization of the commercial district on Mission Street between Silver and Geneva.

Decorating Mission Street for the holidays is part of this larger effort to stimulate and revitalize the Excelsior's commercial corridor. ENCoRe's goals this year we will focus on continuing to build community relationships and pride, produce family friendly events such as the Excelsior Festival and Safe R Treat, and work to make Mission Street attractive to new and existing businesses in the neighborhood.

This year, we turn to filling the many commercial vacancies along the corridor. As part of this effort, The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, with the support of Excelsior merchants, residents, and community-based organizations, submitted a grant proposal to the City for new facilities funds to renovate the Woolworths building on Mission at Harrington. The City will announce recommendations for the proposal in late March.

5199 Site Cleared

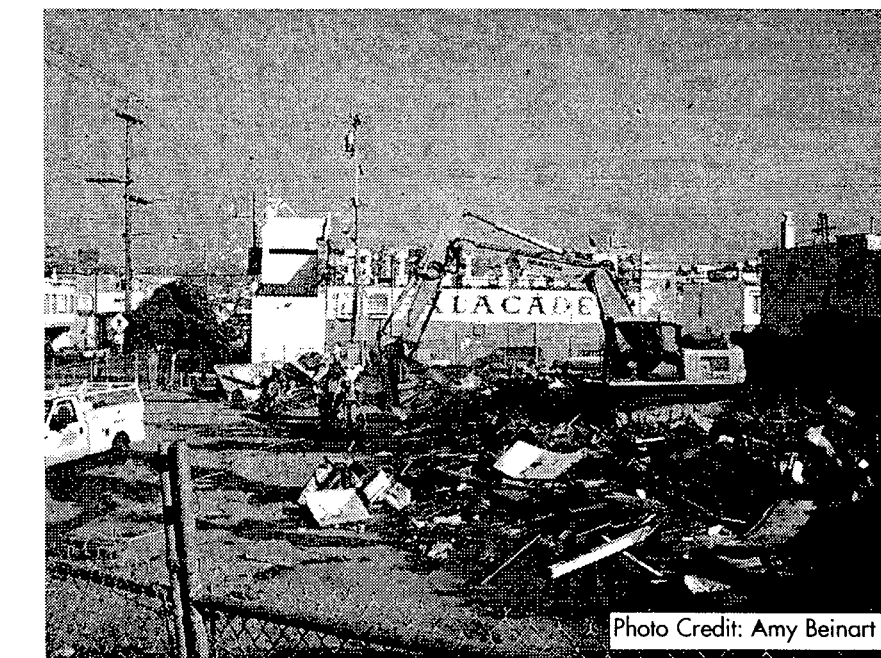


Photo Credit: Amy Beinart

for Senior Housing

The community development work doesn't stop there in the Excelsior. Earlier this month, bulldozers ran through the former Mel's Drive-In structure in a matter of hours (see action photo, left), beginning the demolition of the 5199 Mission Street Senior Housing development, which will make available 37 new permanently affordable apartments to low-income seniors. The building will

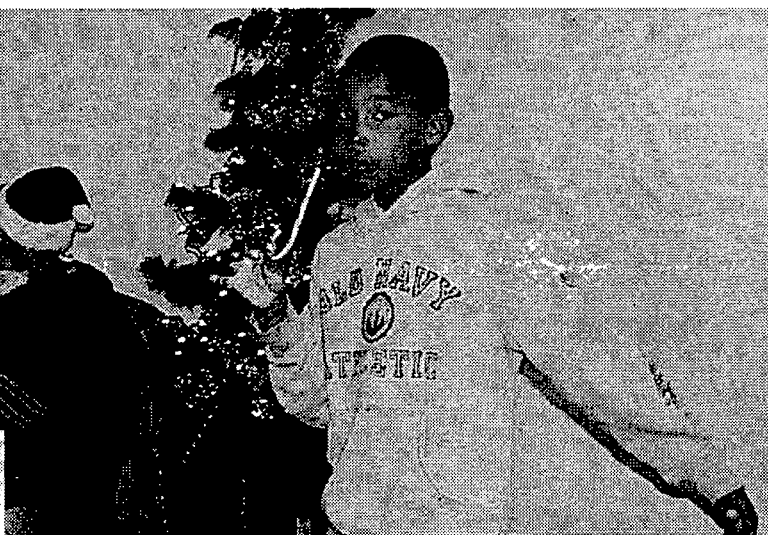
feature a large multipurpose activity room, landscaped courtyard and a roof deck, laundry, and office space for the property manager and a services coordinator. Contractors are now hiring neighborhood residents as construction workers from the 94112 and 94110 area codes. For information on construction job opportunities, please contact the Mission Hiring Hall at 626-1919.

EXCELSIOR HOLIDAY TOY GIVEAWAY

Toys, Candy Canes, Santa, Gifts: Everything a child needed for the holidays were in full effect at the Annual Toy Giveaway on December 18th, 2003, at the Greater Mission Consortium on Mission at Excelsior.



Alejandrina Martinez, owner of Arcos Footware, her sister Betty and their niece enjoy a moment with Santa.

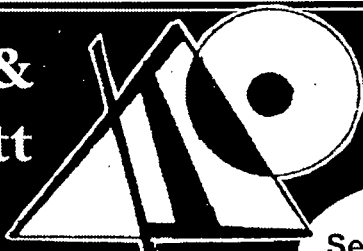


(Right) Santa Sandoval (AKA Supervisor Sandoval) takes a break from the GMC toy giveaway to spend a moment with wife Amy and their daughter Natalie.



Photo credits: Kristen Atkinson & Ron Morgan

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"Keep General Hospital Where It Is!"

By Ed Kinchley
Healthcare Industry Chair, SEIU Local 790
Emergency Department Social Worker,
SF General Hospital

On January 14th at a Neighborhood Meeting hosted by San Francisco General Hospital, community activists from the Mission and Bernal Heights spoke out in favor of keeping San Francisco General Hospital at its current site. They complained that moving the hospital would make it harder for people who need SFGH to access health-care.

The next Neighborhood Meeting will be on The Health Commission is expected to take a position on the rebuild bond measure at their March 2nd meeting.

The controversy arises out of two separate, but in the eyes of some, overlapping issues: plans to rebuild the inpatient part of SFGH, and the need to build a helipad for the hospital's trauma center.

San Francisco is the only major city in the country without a helipad for medical transport. As the 2002 San Francisco Civil Grand Jury concluded on SFGH, "Many citizens may not be aware of the extent to which SFGH serves the general population. While the hospital does provide services to the indigent and uninsured populations, it also serves the rest of the City and the Bay Area through its trauma center. It is, in fact, every citizen's hospital." A

helipad is needed to maintain the hospital's status as a Level 1 Trauma Center, and to keep the crucial state funding that is tied to that status (3 pm, 101 Grove).

The two issues are separate because the City needs to build a helipad at the Trauma Center before the 2013 completion of the rebuild.

After a major earthquake in 1994, the state passed a law requiring all acute-care hospitals to meet stricter seismic standards. This is an unfunded mandate that requires SFGH to rebuild or retrofit by 2013. Since construction will take eight to ten years, the Health Department plans to put a bond measure before the voters this November for up to \$550 million.

The hospital's Rebuild Steering Committee has narrowed down the options for where to build to three: two different scenarios within the current Potrero site, and one at Mission Bay where the University of California is building what some expect will become a world class medical research center. Some of the General's physicians have been pushing to rebuild at Mission Bay to be near the research center. However, now that the City has made it clear that it will not be possible to fund a \$1.5 billion rebuild, support for moving to Mission Bay has been less enthusiastic.

Community leaders and other hospital staff have raised a number of serious concerns about moving to the Mission

Bay site:

*Access to healthcare is an increasing problem for many without health insurance. Many oppose moving away from the communities that currently use the hospital.

*The quality of care will suffer because it will be more difficult for primary care providers working at clinics on the Potrero site to visit their patients while they are in the hospital at Mission Bay.

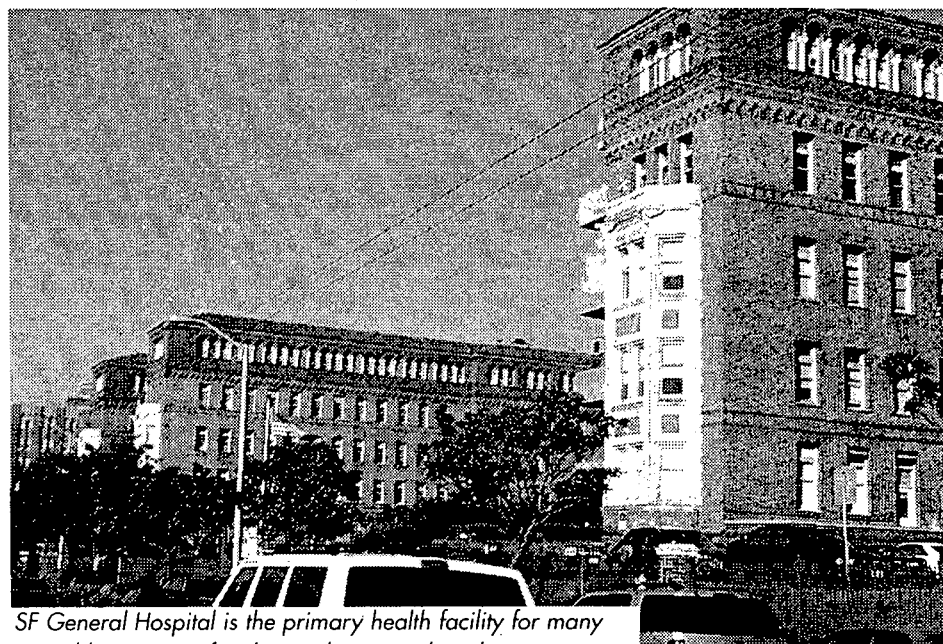
*Some question the logic of building to avoid earthquake damage on land-fill. Mission Bay is predominantly land-fill.

*The City doesn't own land in Mission Bay, and it is not zoned for a hospital.

*Others raise the problem of getting an ambulance into the trauma center new PacBell Park when there is a ball game.

Another important issue raised by healthcare activists is the need for more hospital beds, not fewer, and the desire to get the most for the taxpayers' dollar. The two proposals for rebuilding at the Potrero site include retrofitting the old, red brick buildings in front of the main hospital building. If the voters approve a \$550 bond for the rebuild, the extra \$140 million available to retrofit historic buildings will make it possible to build a hospital with 397 beds. The Mission Bay option would only net 278 beds. That's 119 fewer beds for the same \$550 million.

Service Employees International Union Local 790, with 2600 nurses, clerks and other healthcare workers in the Health Department, and another 8,500 workers in SF city government offices and schools, voted on January 13th to support the Rebuild Bond measure - but only if it calls for construction at the Potrero site.



SF General Hospital is the primary health facility for many Bernal low-income families and seniors Photo by Ron Morgan

Precita Valley Neighbors Report

By David Robinson

Neighbors Demand Gardener Assignment

There is grim news regarding Precita Park. The gardener assigned to the Precita Park has retired, and, due to budget cuts, is not being replaced. The only way that we will get a gardener

(and be treated like the neighbors of the parks on the more affluent west side of town) is through public outcry. Please send a letter and/or an email demanding that a gardener be assigned to Precita Park to Dan McKenna, Recreation and Park Department Southern Superintendent, at the following addresses:

Email: danmckenna@sfgov.org
(please CC: dcasella@sfsu.edu)

Mail:
Dan McKenna
Southern Superintendent
Recreation and Parks Department
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117-1898
Phone: 415 831-2745

Successful Park Cleanup

On the brighter side, Precita Valley Neighbors organized a successful park clean-up effort on Saturday, January 10. About four dozen neighbors participated, including a productive group of youth organized by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. Among the accomplishments were the planting of 500 daffodil bulbs, and the clearing of weeds and overgrowth in the traffic triangle located at the intersection of Alabama and Precita. Recreation and Park Department staff participants included Robert Watkins (Area

Superintendent), Kristen Bowman (Volunteer Coordinator) and Becky Ballinger (Public Information Officer). Thanks also to Gary Richmond for coordinating with the Department of Public Works and Jeanne Darrah for coordinating with Rec and Park.

Closure of Chavez Traffic Lanes Opposed

Precita Valley Neighbors opposes the proposed closing of two lanes of traffic on Chavez to create bicycle lanes. This closure would have a very negative impact by diverting traffic through Precita Valley. Bicycle lanes can be more safely and effectively created on parallel streets such as 25th Street. To oppose this lane closure plan, please email Peter Tannen of the Department of Parking and Traffic at peter.tannen@sfgov.org, please CC: to dcasella@sfsu.edu.

Preserve the 67 MUNI Bus Route

Precita Valley Neighbors endorses the current route of the 67 MUNI line and opposes efforts to take the 67 off of Ripley Street. Rerouting of the 67 would make the bus less accessible to North Bernal neighbors and could cause negative traffic impacts Alabama and Precita. PVN has advised MUNI of its opposition to proposals to take the 67 off of Ripley.

About the PVN

PVN meets at Charlie's Deli (Northwest corner of Precita/Folsom) on the second Saturday of each month at 10AM. Please join us! If you would like to join the PVN email list, contact please send an email to: dcasella@sfsu.edu. PVN does not share email addresses with other organizations and only sends out its meeting agendas and meeting minutes, approximately 20 messages a year. For more information, contact the PVN Co-Chairpersons: Demece Garepis (641-0507); David Robinson (285-5957); and Gary Richmond (641-0115).

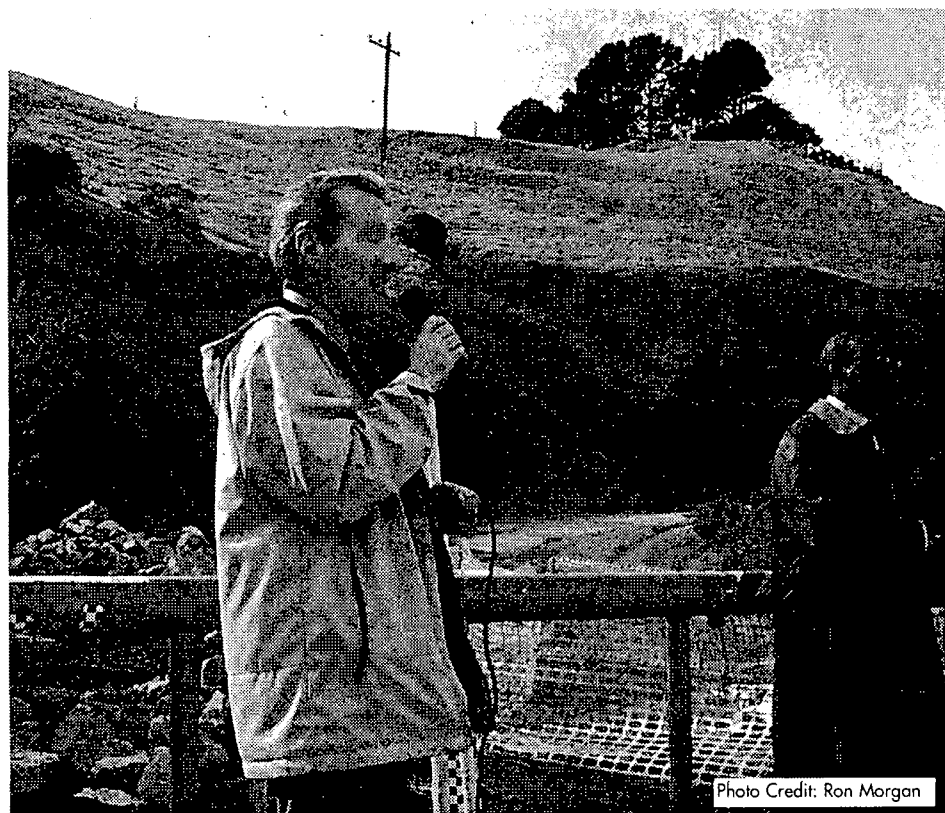


Photo Credit: Ron Morgan

A junior volunteer learns the difference between a bulb and a hole in the ground at the Precita Park clean up on January 10th, sponsored by the Precita Valley Neighbors and SF Rec and Parks.



Bernal Happenings



Bernal Hill Renovation Breaks Ground

By Eugenie Marek
Supervisor Tom Ammiano and a host of local luminaries broke ground on Friday, January 30th, on a long-awaited and exciting renovation of Bernal Heights Park. Known informally to locals as Bernal Hill, this is a 24 acre parcel bounded by Bernal Heights Boulevard, offering 360 degree panoramic views of the Bay Area.

Encompassing a large grassy natural area, as well as walkways, the park is a designated off-leash area for dog walkers.

Planning for this project was spear-headed almost 5 years ago by Precita Valley Neighbors, in response to dog walkers concerns about the quality of the facility.

John Thomas, landscape architect for the project, rose to the challenge

of preserving a rare spot of urban wilderness or wildness. "It's not a green park, its rocky soils, geology and topography set it apart from most other Recreation and Park facilities," said Thomas, who strove to emphasize this unique identity, while eliminating the haphazard earlier additions that clashed with its rustic natural character.

The current renovation, to be completed by April 2004, is focused on the north side. Unsightly concrete barriers and guard rails are being replaced by natural boulders at the entrance and along Bernal Heights Boulevard. In addition to repaving a portion of the roadway, the crosswalk will be moved, and the parking area rebuilt for greater safety. There will be a new gate, signage, community bulletin board, trash receptacles and doggy bag dispenser, giving it the feel of a park rather than abandoned land. Eleven new benches with stone wingwalls will be placed at vista points along the main park walk.

The work on the south side will be incorporated into DPW's Banks/Chapman Street improvement project which will begin in late 2004. Those improvements will include a new gate, signage, community bulletin board, trash receptacles, doggy bag dispenser, drinking fountain, road bulbouts with native tree plantings, and benches with stone wingwalls. The natu-

ral area will continue as is.

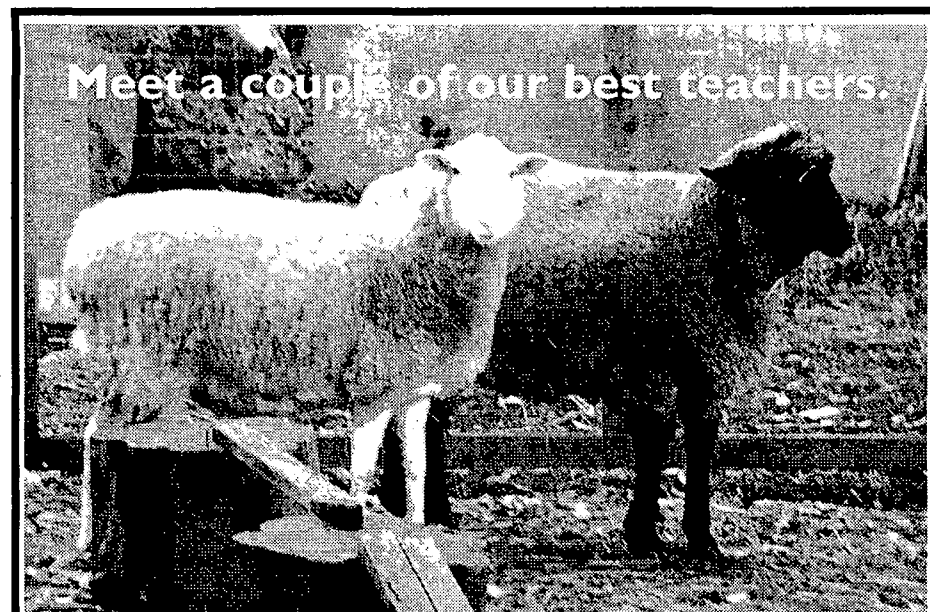
Kids Ballfield Or Dog Play Run?

From the Friends of Holly Park
On February 23rd the SF Recreation & Park Department will hold a community meeting to discuss changing the children's ballfield, located at the top of Holly Park, into a dog play area. The meeting is being held in response to a petition from dog owners asking for this change. Interested neighbors are encouraged to attend and voice your opinion. **Monday, February 23rd at 6:30 pm at Bernal Heights Recreation Center, 500 Moultrie (behind the Library)**

Bernal Hilltop Native Grassland Restoration Project on Bernal Hill

Savor the full spectrum of spring bloom, control invasive exotics, maintain restoration areas, and pick up trash.

Work Parties - 2004
3rd Sunday of every month, 11 am.
January 18 February 15
March 21 April 18
Bring your own clippers/tools if possible. Meet at the foot of the road leading to phone company microwave tower near the southwestern road closure of Bernal Heights Boulevard. **For more information, call Barbara and Roland Pitschel at 415-282-5066 or email bpan-drp@peoplepc.com**



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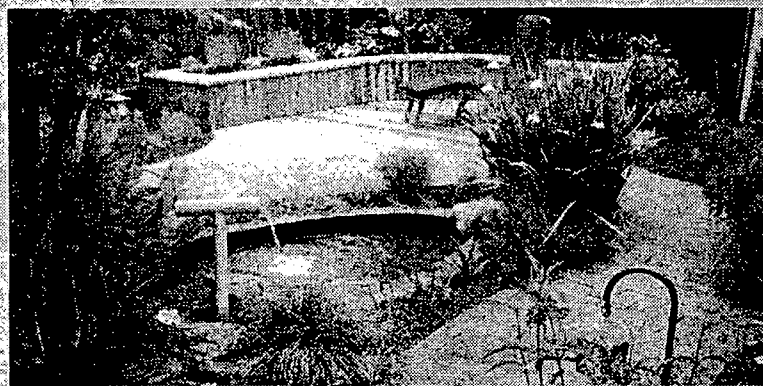
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CAPTIONS!!!!

Youth Attend Leadership Workshop (and Learn to Ski!)

by Kristen Atkinson, BHNC Youth Services Director

The retreat brought youth from a various schools, backgrounds and neighborhoods together to share their experiences as young leaders and mentors, build teamwork and form new friendships, and of course, have a lot of fun in the process.

Youth from Balboa High School, Luther Burbank Middle School, Denman Middle School and Paul Revere Elementary School.

On Friday, January 23, 2004, 12 youth and 4 brave staff loaded up 2 vans for a weekend adventure at Lake Tahoe. The youth, participants in the Outer Mission Community Support Network program, had been handpicked by staff to participate in a Leadership Retreat and Ski Trip as a reward for their hard work and dedication to leadership development. Although many of the youth knew each other from school or neighborhood programs, others were meeting for the very first time.

Just getting up to Tahoe on a Friday night was an adventure in itself; 11 of the 12 youth leaders saw snow for the first time when we pulled off the highway to fill up our gas tanks. As you can imagine, a snowball fight broke out in no time at all. By the time we actually made our way up to the cabin, the youth could barely contain their excitement. Friday night was spent eating a delicious dinner cooked by youth from the Healthy Eating and Living (HEAL) group, sledding down the hill in the backyard, playing arcade games, and really getting to know each other.

Saturday morning it was off to the slopes at Northstar where we loaded up on snow gear and ski equipment before taking our first skiing lessons. By the late afternoon, we were feeling like pros, and some of the youth even made it off the bunny hills! After a long day of fun in the snow, we headed back to the cabin for another hearty meal by HEAL and an evening of teambuilding and leadership activities. The evening workshop allowed the youth to reflect on what it means to be a leader and a mentor; it gave them the chance to open up about making friends, learning new skills, and listening to each other. We capped off the evening with a birthday celebration for one of the youth, and a movie-watching marathon (made possible by the generous donation of DVDs from Four Star Video).

All in all, the youth (and adults) had a great time playing in the snow and bonding with new-found friends. In fact, some of the participants are already requesting another retreat! As one youth so proudly declared, "this trip was one of the best times of my life."

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Lifeline rates and special free services

SF Environment staff report,

San Francisco has a world-class recycling program, and pioneers ways to take care of potentially hazardous household discards like automobile oil, latex paint, solvents, and cleaners. Our "Fantastic Three" three-cart curbside recycling program, which we're rolling out across the City, has increased recycling by an average of 90 percent on each new route. We also have folks that will come right to your home to pick up toxic household products. The service is free for common items like latex paint and automotive oil, but for cleaning products, pesticides, oil-based paint and other items there's a small charge.

However, at SF Environment we want all San Franciscans to have access to these programs, and we won't let income, age, or health get in the way. That's why we work with Sunset Scavenger and Golden Gate Disposal & Recycling to offer deep discounts for recycling and garbage collection to low-income residents. And when it comes to senior citizens and the housebound, we will pick up all types of hazardous waste materials for free.

Lifeline rates for recycling services

In San Francisco, low-income households may be eligible for a 25 percent discount on basic collection services.

The discounted or "Lifeline" rates are based on once-a-week collection, the standard residential service. The Lifeline Rates for garbage are \$13.94 a month for households using a 32-gallon can, and \$10.73 per month for households currently using the 20-gallon can. All households receive the same the same high-quality garbage and recycling collection service regardless of the rate they pay.

If you already participate in PG&E's CARE program for reduced gas and electricity rates you will qualify for Lifeline garbage and recycling rates. Generally, if your household's gross annual income is under \$19,000 for an individual or couple, or \$27,000 for a family of four, you can take advantage of Lifeline.

To determine if you qualify, contact your local recycling company. Sunset Scavenger can be reached at 330-1300, or Golden Gate Disposal at 626-4000. You may also download an application at www.sunsetscavenger.com.

New Bernal Journal En Español!

Febrero/Marzo 2004

Decisión 2004

El consejo del BHNC vota Sí en la H, No en la J

El día 29 de enero, en su primera reunión del año 2004, el Consejo de Directores del BHNC votó a favor de la proposición de ley que crearía un fondo de \$60 millones para las escuelas públicas de San Francisco, y votó en contra de la aceleración de la creación del "Alojamiento para la fuerza laboral" (workforce housing) en el centro de la ciudad y en los muelles contiguos a Potrero Hill. El Consejo también votó en contra de los planes locales propuestos que cambiarían el itinerario de la línea de bus 67 MUNI (vea el artículo sobre los Vecinos de Precita Valley, página X) y convertirían la cancha de Holly Park en una área para perros.

La Prop H, una enmienda al reglamento llamada Escuelas Estupendas Para una Ciudad Estupenda, es una enmienda al reglamento de la Ciudad que requerirá que la Ciudad 1) financie el pre-kinder para todos los niños de cuatro años viviendo en la ciudad; 2) restore las artes, la música, el atletismo y los programas de deportes; 3) provee para los enfermeros, los trabajadores sociales y los bibliotecarios; 4) aumente el sueldo de los maestros. Estos fondos se darán sobre unos cinco años, empezando en el año 2005. Al apoyar este Fondo para la Educación Pública, los que están a favor de la Prop H esperan proteger las escuelas de las incertidumbres que afectan los fondos estatales y federales. La Prop H fue escrita por el Supervisor Tom Ammiano, y los supervisores votaron para incluirla en la papeleta con un voto de 9-2. El Señor Alcalde Gavin Newsom, el miembro de la Asamblea Mark Leno, y todos los miembros del Consejo sobre la Educación apoyan oficialmente esta posición.

Según la página web de Prop H (www.yesnh.com) la enmienda al reglamento llamada Escuelas Estupendas Para una Ciudad Estupenda hará posible lo siguiente:

- Distribuir \$700 por niño a las escuelas - la mitad de los fondos necesarios para que el nivel de las escuelas de San Francisco este en el promedio

- Garantizar \$20 millones anuales para las artes, la música, los deportes y los bibliotecarios

- \$20 millones anuales para la Comisión Primeros Cinco (First Five Commission) de San Francisco para financiar el pre-kinder de TODOS los niños de cuatro años que viven en la ciudad

\$20 millones anuales para apoyar a los profesores y las clases.

Los que se oponen a la enmienda al reglamento, tales como el Supervisor Matt Gonzalez, dicen que el agarrar dinero del Fondo General causará que se quite dinero de otras áreas, por ejemplo del área de la salud.

Alojamiento para la fuerza laboral

La Proposición J, la Iniciativa sobre el Alojamiento para la fuerza laboral (Workforce Housing), es presentada como una solución a la falta de oportunidades para las personas de clase media que quieren comprar una casa en San Francisco. La Prop J crearía dos "comunidades para la fuerza laboral", una en el centro y otra en los muelles al este de Potrero Hill, y un cierto porcentaje de las viviendas estarían apartadas para ser vendidas a personas que ganan un máximo de 120% del ingreso medio. A cambio de construir estas viviendas a costo más bajo que el promedio en el mercado, los que construyen estas casas recibirían bonos de altura y de densidad y se les garantizaría la aceleración del proceso de obtención del permiso de construcción. También se les haría el control ambiental para la totalidad del área de la comunidad de fuerza laboral. La iniciativa fue puesta en la papeleta gracias a la recolección de 17,000 firmas de personas registradas para votar en San Francisco, después de que una resolución patrocinada por el anteriormente Supervisor Gavin Newsom fracasó en su intento de obtener una mayoría en el Consejo de los Supervisores.

Hay diversos grupos e individuales que se oponen a la Proposición J, incluyendo a la Coalición de Asociaciones de Vecindarios de San Francisco, la Junta de Organizaciones Comunitarias para el Alojamiento, y los Supervisores Ammiano, Gonzalez, Maxwell, Daly, Peskin, McGoldrick y Hall.

Los que se oponen a la Prop J dicen que según esta proposición, la "fuerza laboral" se refiere a los que ganan \$77,000 al año para las personas individuales y \$110,000 al año para una familia de cuatro, lo cual pone estas viviendas fuera del alcance de 90% de los trabajadores de San Francisco. También muestran que no hay incentivos para la creación de viviendas de tamaño familiar para las familias trabajadoras, algo muy necesario en San Francisco. También critican el hecho de que la Prop J acelera el proceso de

obtención del permiso de construcción, lo cual significa que las construcciones para la "fuerza laboral" tomarían el primer lugar en la cola en el Departamento de Planificación, y entonces causaría retrasos en los desarrollos de alojamiento.

Las personas residiendo en los vecindarios afectados por la Prop J se han quejado de que no se les consultó durante la creación de la Prop J, y que se hecharían a perder años de esfuerzos por parte del programa de Vecindarios Mejores para cambiar cuidadosamente el uso del terreno y fortalecer los vecindarios históricos del este de la ciudad. Sienten que la Prop J esposaría la Comisión de Planificación en su habilidad de revisar proyectos y forzaría a los comisioneros a aprobar proyectos para la "fuerza laboral" tales cuales. También sienten que la Prop J establece un precedente peligroso y abre la puerta para que los jefes de construcción busquen cambios parecidos sin un proceso de aprobación pública en toda la ciudad.

Los perros vs. los niños?

El Consejo de Directores del BHNC también votó en contra de una petición para convertir la cancha de Holly Park en una área para que corran los perros sin trailla. La presidenta del grupo Amigos de Holly Park Eugenia Marek y el Presidente del Grupo para la acción política para los perros, David Looman, hablaron cada uno en contra de la petición, que fue pronunciada delante el Departamento de Parques y Recreación y acompañada de una lista de firmas. Se dará una reunión pública el día Lunes 23 de febrero a las 6:30 en el Centro de Recreación de Bernal Heights (y no en el BHNC) detrás de la biblioteca, para obtener comentarios públicos acerca de esta petición.

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Para apuntarse, por favor llame a Anna Ulbrich al 206-2140 x152. Espacio limitado así que llame rápido.

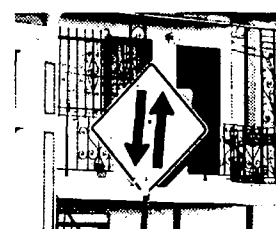
Talleres Profesionales para Maestros para Mejorar su Enseñanza.

Por Hector Lee

Este año escolar la escuela Leonard R. Flynn fue otorgado una beca por el San Francisco Education Fund de \$7000 para que los maestros tengan Reuniones Dirigidas de Alfabetismo. Toman lugar mensualmente durante el año. La beca cubre estímulos monetarios para maestros, refrigerios, y libros profesionales.

Las reuniones son una oportunidad para que los maestros compartan sus procedimientos de alfabetismo con otros maestros. Los profesores demuestran elementos de alfabetismo y explican sus pensamientos y técnicas con sus colegas. Los otros maestros tienen la oportunidad de aprender, hacer preguntas, y hacer sugerencias para mejorar su ejército profesional. Algunos maestros han mostrado videos de lecciones enseñados en sus salones para compartir con sus colegas. Discusiones interesantes resultan. La meta de estas reuniones es mejorar el ejército profesional de los maestros para captar a los alumnos y mejorar los logros estudiantiles.

El otro aspecto de las reuniones es el leer libros profesionales y discutirlos. Es la oportunidad de aprender sobre las perspectivas de expertos educacionales y como sus ideas se pueden adaptar a la escuela L.R. Flynn. Las lecturas confirman y desafían nuestros pensamientos y ejército profesional. Es una oportunidad pequeña para que los maestros reflejen concientemente en una manera colaborativa para mejorar el aprendizaje en la escuela L. R. Flynn.



Thank You! ¡Gracias!

The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center thanks the many neighbors who supported our work in 2003. You make the work we do possible!

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A black and white photograph showing a person from behind, wearing a plaid shirt and dark pants, pushing a shopping cart. The cart contains a large, rectangular box. The person is walking on a sidewalk in front of a building with a window and a door. The ground is littered with trash, including a crumpled piece of paper and a small bottle. The image has a grainy, high-contrast quality.

The BHNC Senior Services and Community Organizing Departments joined with the Senior Action Network in support of a Board of Supervisors resolution sponsored by Supervisor Chris Daly to restore the original distribution sites. There is a hearing on February 26th, at the City Services Committee, Rm. 263. For more info, call Ron, 206-2140 Ext. 155

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Home Depot Clock Resumes Ticking...

by Ron Morgan

Consultants for Home Depot delivered over 225 pages of responses to public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report to the Planning Department in early January, starting the clock ticking once more on the proposed megastore for Bayshore/Cortland. The Planning Department will review these responses, and send them back to Home Depot with comments of their own. This means that the final EIR could be published as early as March, followed by a certification hearing at the Planning Commission.

The No Depot Committee is hosting a community meeting to discuss Home Depot's draft responses to public comments on their project, and suggest next steps, in the Dining Room of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, Sunday, February 22nd, at 2 pm.

For more information call 206-2140 Extension 155, or email nodpot@hotmail

Peter Rothblatt

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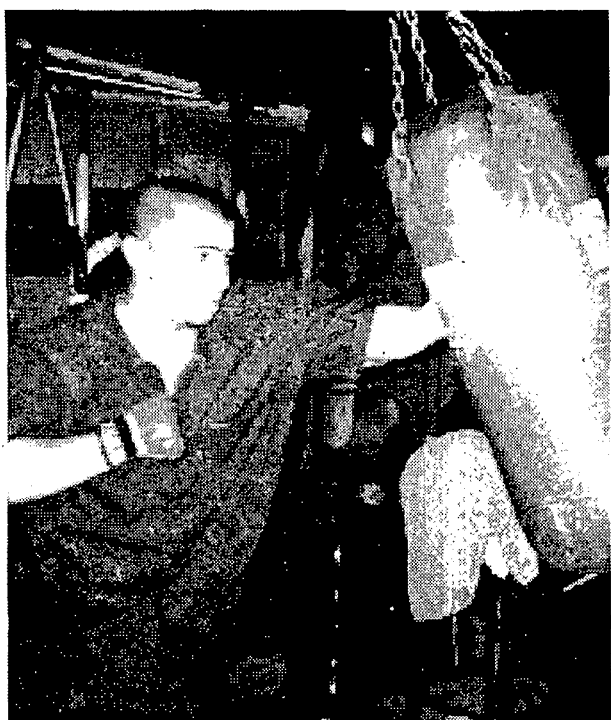
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Vicente "Vinny" Joseph Cordini September 23, 1982 - January 3, 2004

A Cortland Boy



Beloved Son of Mike and Dilly (Diane) Cordini, beloved brother of Rico (Trina) Cordini.

Nephew of: Alex and Sue Zuniga; Fred and and Cathy Cordini; Bobby and Renée Grow; Rosie Peña; Donna Hundley; Linda and Jessie Camusano; Cece Ramirez, Michael Attard; Gilbert, Chris and Kelly Ramirez; Henry Bothelo; Charles and Virgie Booth.

Cousin of: Jean and Leah Zuniga; Matt and Carlos Cordini; James and Leslie Grow; Gina Heinicke; Mark "Chato", Lydia, and Terry Peña; Don and David Hundley; Gloria, Irene, Linda Rose, Lori, and Robert

Campusano; Frankie, Jody, and Elizabeth Ramirez; Deryck Attard; Cassisu Bothelo; Charles and Tracy Booth; Moses, Antigone, and Jessica Ramirez.

Second Cousin of: Ramone, David Angelina, Marlena, Vanessa, Gino, Jasmine, Bobby, Scotty, Joe, Mark, Damian, Tyler, Angelo, and too many more to name.

Vinny had the friendship and respect of people from all over the neighborhoods. From Cortland to Precita, the Excelsior, the Mission, the Point, 3rd Street, Visitacion Valley and the Bayview. His friends knew he always had "their back". He was a man among men, and his smile could diffuse even the most tense of situations. He was always the first one to "man up", to help someone in a jam, be it an older lady who needed help with her groceries, a little kid who needed help across the street, or a homeless person who just needed a helping hand - he was there. We who knew and loved him have a huge hole in our hearts that we can only fill with memories, but he's now our guardian angel, and he'll forever have our backs. "Reposo in pace"

labor movement, and was an active member of the Office and Professional Employees Union for 50 years. She could always be counted on to stand up for herself and others in the workplace and the world, most recently through participation in the Senior Action Network, the Greater Mission Democratic Club, and the Local 3 Retirees.

Thelma is survived by her immediate family; her daughters Rudi Faltus and Susan Faltus-Meltessen, her grandchildren Forrest Flatus-Clark, Simone and Julie Meltessen; and her great friend and caretaker Martha Ponce, who made it possible for Thelma to remain in the home that she loved until she died.

Thelma was so well loved and will be remembered by so many. She arranged for her body to be cremated by the Neptune Society of San Francisco. A celebration of her life is planned for February 14th, from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm, at the Sigmund Stern Grove Clubhouse, 19th Avenue at Sloat Boulevard.

Thelma Katherine Faltus

August 11, 1911 - December 8, 2003

With her usual courage, determination, grace, and dignity, Thelma Faltus died peacefully in her home, surrounded by her family, on the afternoon of December 8, 2003. She was 92 years old.

Youngest of four sisters of young Italian immigrant parents, Thelma was born in Sutter, California in 1911. Her father killed a year later in a mine accident, and she and her sisters went to work at an early age to support their family. Thelma later became active in the



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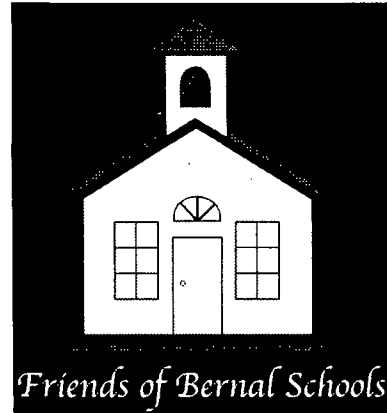
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Community Planning Workshop

Thursday, February 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
St. Anthony's Church, St. Vincent Meeting Room

(Enter from César Chavez near Folsom, next to bell tower, through Meeting Rooms door, take steps down to lower level)
Refreshments, translation, and childcare available.
Call Mary Lucero-Dorst at 206-2140, ext 147 for more information.

BHNC launches bold new website

By Neil Smith, Office Manager, BHNC

Friends, clients, neighbors and staff of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center now have one more reason to go web-surfing, thanks to the launch of the new BHNC website. The site, which can be found at www.bhnc.org, is the result of a collaboration with students at San Francisco State University.

Visitors to the dramatic new site will be able to learn about each of the programs run by the Center, as well as keep up-to-date with community meetings, view employment opportunities and become a member of the BHNC.

The origins of the new website project lie in a United Way and IBM program called "Teaming for Technology." The BHNC was invited to work with local non-profit technology organization Compumentor to help develop the Center's technology capacity. As a result of this partnership, Compumentor's Greg Beuthin was able to connect the Center with SFSU's web design intensive program. SFSU student Raymond Barbour developed the project. After an initial development phase, three designs were presented, the best of which was selected by BHNC staff for use in the final website.

Compumentor also played an important role in the implementation of the site. One of their primary programs connects technology professionals with non-profit organizations, and BHNC took advantage of this to make it easier to keep the site up-to-date.

"Through the Teaming for Technology project, we were able to offer the BHNC an enormous amount of technology support, from hands-on tech-help to website volunteers," commented Compumentor's Greg Beuthin. "It's a testament to the skill and talent of the staff at the BHNC that they were able to capitalize on every single thing we offered them."

Plans are already underway for the addition of new features that will make the site even more user-friendly. These include a list of BHNC housing properties, an email inquiry form, an online membership application and a page dedicated entirely to Fiesta on the Hill, the annual Bernal Heights street fair.

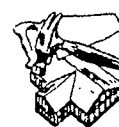
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(Continued from Page 1)

They feel that Prop J handcuffs the Planning Commission's review over development projects, forcing the Commissioners to pass "workforce" projects "as-is", and that the proposition sets a dangerous precedent, opening the door for developers to seek similar changes without public review throughout the city.

Dogs vs Kids?

The BHNC Board of Directors also voted to oppose a request to convert the playing field atop Holly Park into an unleashed "Dog Play Area". Friends of Holly Park chair Eugenie Marek and Dog PAC chair David Looman each spoke against the request, which has been delivered to the SF Recreation and Parks Department in the form of a petition. A public meeting has been scheduled for **Monday, February 23rd, at 6:30 at the Bernal Heights Recreation Center (NOT the BHNC) behind the**

library, to obtain public comment on this request.

The Board also voted to support the position of the Precita Valley Neighbors to maintain the present route of the 67 MUNI bus route.

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- how to create a document

To sign up, please call Anna Ulbrich at 206-2140 x152. Space is limited, sign-up on a first call first serve basis.

Professional Development for Teachers to Improve their Teaching

by Hector Lee

This year, Leonard R. Flynn Elementary School was awarded a San Francisco Education Fund Grant of \$7000 for teachers to have Guided Literacy Meetings once a month throughout the year. The award pays for teacher stipends, snacks, and professional books. The meetings are an opportunity for teachers to share their literacy practices with other teachers. Teachers demonstrate

literacy elements and explain their thinking and techniques to their colleagues. Other teachers have the opportunity to learn, ask questions, and offer suggestions to improve their teaching practice. Some teachers have brought in videos of lessons taught in their classrooms to share with colleagues. Interesting discussions ensue. The objective of the meetings is to improve teachers' practice in order to engage student learning and improve the student achievement.

Another aspect to the meetings is reading professional books and discussing them. It is an opportunity to learn about the perspectives of educational experts and how their ideas are applicable to L. R. Flynn. The readings both affirm and challenge our thinking and practice. It is a small opportunity for the teachers to thoughtfully reflect about their teaching in a collaborative manner in order to improve the learning that goes on at Flynn.

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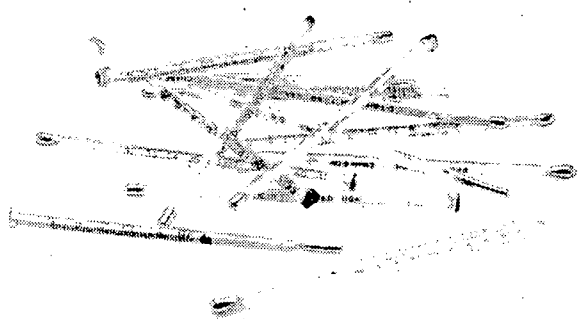
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Sanitary Fill Company/Household Hazardous
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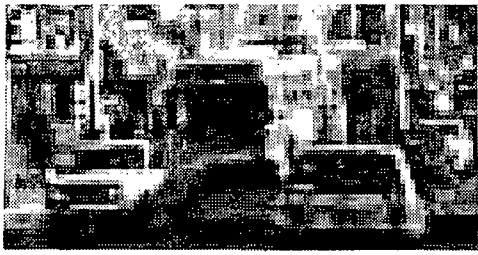
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Jueves, 26 de febrero, 6:30-8:30

Iglesia San Antonio, Sala de
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(Entre por Cesar Chavez cerca de la Folsom, al lado de
la torre de campana, pase las puertas de las salas de
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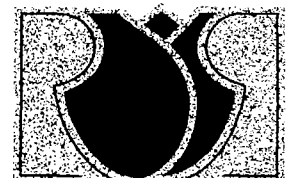
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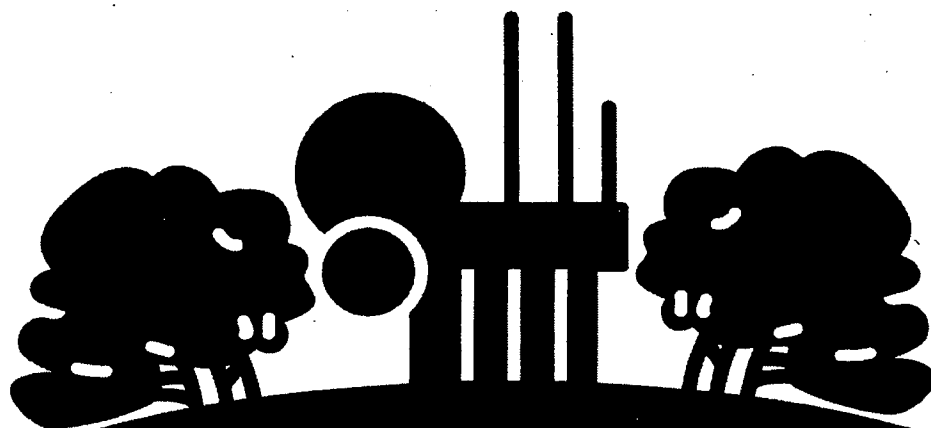
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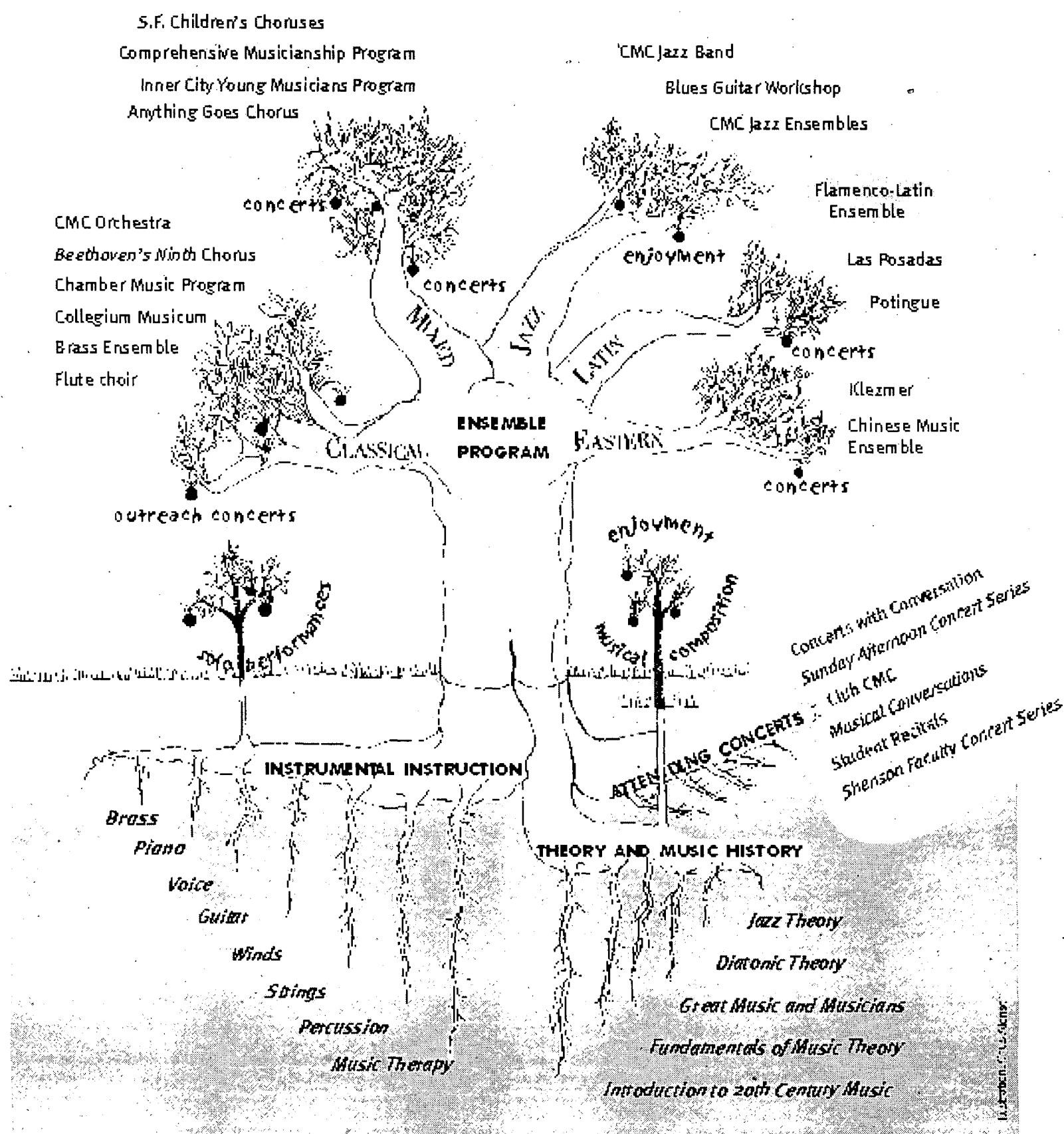
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